

## COST OF MAKING GAS

## Census Figures Throw Light on Washington Gas.

## GREAT INCREASE OF REVENUES

Only Statistics About Gas Production Are Voluntary Statements to Census Officials—Enormous Increase in Consumption of Water in the Past Five Years.

The Georgetown Gaslight Company having reduced the price of gas to \$1, there is expectation of a similar reduction by the Washington Gaslight Company—but there is no sign of it yet.

It is often said that the consumers of gas in Washington cannot discover what gas costs. The gas companies are public-service corporations, chartered by Congress, and given a monopoly in order that the streets of Washington may not be constantly torn up by competing concerns. In view of the privileges granted, Congress retains the right to inquire into the cost of making gas from time to time and fixing the price to consumers.

The gas companies make no reports annually, except that they are required by law to report to the Secretary of the Interior the amount of coal they buy each year and what they pay for it. Beyond this, no official reports are required or made. The citizen of an inquiring turn of mind consequently finds himself wandering in a perfect Sahara of documents and hearings if he makes the effort to get any information as to what it costs to make gas in the District of Columbia.

In the Spooner investigation twenty years ago some approach was made to a satisfactory inquiry into the conditions of making gas in Washington, but when the officials of the companies were asked to furnish the committee with full data, they did not do so, except in the case of the Georgetown company, whose statements were not incorporated in the report of the committee. Practically the only definite information in regard to the Washington companies is to be had from the census reports, and these are extremely limited. They are not reports required by charter enactment, but are voluntary. They may not be entirely accurate, they may be purposely misleading, but they have a distinct value as being substantially all that is accessible.

## Gaslight Statistics.

In the reports of gas manufacturers in the District of Columbia in the census reports for the years 1900 and 1905 the following data in regard to the Washington companies are given. The number of companies reporting are three—the Washington Gaslight Company, the Georgetown Gaslight Company, and the Pinesch railroad company, which supplies the Pullman cars going out of the city, and whose output is inconsiderable in a discussion of the figures.

## STATISTICS OF THE WASHINGTON GASLIGHT COMPANY, SHOWN BY CENSUS RETURNS.

	1900.	1905.
Total capital stock.....	\$2,700,000	\$2,700,000
Dividend during year.....	\$165,000	\$165,000
Total.....	\$1,562,625	\$1,562,625
Buildings.....	\$275,726	\$331,455
Machinery, apparatus, etc.....	\$58,909	\$62,114
Raw materials.....	\$5,147,877	\$4,238,116
Cash on hand.....	\$40,406	\$29,252
Salaries of officials.....	\$148,800	\$148,800
Wages.....	\$107,542	\$107,542
Pay of clerks.....	\$80	\$80
Wages.....	\$275,726	\$331,455
Cost of materials for gas.....	\$135,515	\$135,515
Coal, tons.....	70,841	34,560
Gas, cubic feet.....	40,835	339,465
Coal, bushels.....	40,835	339,465
Coal, cubic feet.....	40,835	339,465
Oil, gallons.....	12,900,000	12,900,000
Water, gallons.....	12,900,000	12,900,000
Water, cubic feet.....	12,900,000	12,900,000
Gas sold (feet).....	1,075,210,187	1,075,210,187
Gas sold (cubic feet).....	1,075,210,187	1,075,210,187
Coal and kerosene.....	60,572,500	60,572,500
Straight coal gas value.....	\$70,370	\$70,370
Oil gas value.....	\$26,000	\$26,000
Mixed coal and water gas value.....	\$1,700,289,000	\$1,700,289,000
Value sold.....	\$98,562	\$98,562

## Some Evident Facts.

From these two columns of figures, which probably present more information as to the operations of the gas companies of Washington than has thus far been

## WEATHER CONDITIONS.

U. S. Dept. of Agriculture, Weather Bureau.

Washington, Friday, Dec. 28, 1906. 8 a. m. The weather in the United States is almost featureless, in strong contrast to the severe cold and stormy weather now experienced in Western Europe, especially in the British Isles. The temperature in the United States is above the seasonal average in almost all districts, and there is an absence of wind and pressure gradients that is remarkable for the season.

Rain has fallen in the Southeastern States, rain or snow in the Rocky Mountain region, and rain in the Southern States. In the Southern States, rain has now been falling in Arizona and Southern California about forty-eight hours; the fall at first was heavy, but about half an inch fell today, which, together with that which fell Thursday, will add to the difficulties in clearing the flow of the Colorado River into Salton Sea.

Unsettled weather, with little change in temperature, is probable Saturday and Sunday east of the Mississippi. In the Southern States, in the Southeastern States and the Southwest, rain is also probable Sunday in the Rocky Mountain region and in the West Gulf States.

The winds along the Atlantic coast will be light and variable, and on the Gulf coast light southerly. Steamers departing Saturday for European ports will have light, variable winds and fair weather to the Grand Banks.

Storm warnings are displayed on the Washington and Oregon coasts.

## Local Temperatures.

Midnight, 35; 2 a. m., 35; 4 a. m., 35; 6 a. m., 36; 8 a. m., 37; 10 a. m., 37; 12 noon, 37; 2 p. m., 38; 4 p. m., 38; 6 p. m., 38; 8 p. m., 38; 10 p. m., 38; Maximum, 38; minimum, 35.

Relative humidity, 85. Wind, 2 p. m., 68; 8 p. m., 85; relative, 60; hours of sunshine, 5; percent possible sunshine, 54.

Temperature same date last year—Maximum, 50; minimum, 23.

## Temperatures in Other Cities.

Temperatures in other cities, together with the amount of rainfall for the twelve hours ended at 8 p. m. yesterday, are as follows:

	Max.	Min.	8 p. m.	Rain.
Ashville, N. C.....	56	46	50	0.02
Atlanta, Ga.....	56	42	50	0.08
Atlantic City, N. J.....	41	30	40	0.00
Birmingham, N. D.....	38	24	38	0.00
Boston, Mass.....	41	34	40	0.01
Buffalo, N. Y.....	32	28	32	0.00
Chicago, Ill.....	38	24	38	0.00
Cincinnati, Ohio.....	44	38	42	0.02
Cleveland, Ohio.....	44	32	38	0.00
Davenport, Iowa.....	38	24	38	0.00
Denver, Colo.....	38	24	38	0.00
Des Moines, Iowa.....	48	22	40	0.00
Galveston, Tex.....	72	62	66	0.00
Houston, Texas.....	72	62	66	0.00
Indianapolis, Ind.....	40	38	38	0.00
Jacksonville, Fla.....	70	62	62	0.00
Kansas City, Mo.....	40	38	38	0.00
Little Rock, Ark.....	50	30	40	0.00
Marquette, Mich.....	32	20	24	0.00
New York, N. Y.....	42	32	38	0.00
New York, N. Y.....	42	32	38	0.00
Omaha, Neb.....	42	32	38	0.00
Pittsburg, Pa.....	42	32	38	0.00
Salt Lake City, Utah.....	42	32	38	0.00
St. Louis, Mo.....	42	32	38	0.00
St. Paul, Minn.....	38	28	38	0.00
Springfield, Ill.....	38	28	38	0.00
Victoria, B. C.....	70	60	66	0.00

## FIGHT OVER PLUMS

## Alabamians of Both Parties Much Perturbed.

## DO NOT WANT OSCAR HUNDLEY

Contest Over Nomination as United States Attorney Recalls Rows of First McKinley Administration. Aspirant a Democrat Until William J. Bryan Became Candidate.

It has been a long time since there was a row over a Southern Federal appointment. Such a contest, with phases that bring back to mind the contentions of aspirants for jobs under the first McKinley administration which came up from most of the Southern States, is now to the fore, and is pitting Republicans and Democrats alike.

The fight over the nomination of Oscar R. Hundley to be United States attorney for the Northern district of Alabama. Mr. Hundley's nomination is obnoxious to the entire Alabama delegation. About ten years ago Hundley was a Democratic State Senator. When Bryan was nominated he quit the party, without giving up his seat in the State senate, and went North on the stump for McKinley. When McKinley was elected, Hundley immediately became a candidate for appointment to office, and has been a candidate for something good at the hands of the Federal administration. This is the principal objection to him which is urged by Alabama Democrats.

## Nomination Held Up.

Mr. Hundley's name was sent to the Senate the first week in December, but, in courtesy to Senator Pettus, who is a member of the Judiciary Committee of the Senate, the nomination was held up for consideration after the holidays.

Although it was freely hinted among Alabama Republicans that there would be opposition from some of them to the nomination, none developed in that quarter until the Democrats had practically done with the presentation of their objections. Such Republican opposition has now arisen, and its backers are getting ready for the fray in a manner which promises exceptionally interesting developments, for the reason that in it is involved what looks very like a mixture of the old ways picturesque game of Presidential politics in the Southern States.

## Complications Are Numerous.

In the consideration of the nomination of Hundley to be district attorney is said to be concerned one way or another the political fortunes of several aspirants for the succession to President Roosevelt.

Hundley has the indorsement of the Alabama referees, or "fuglemen," as Senator Pettus terms them, and thereby has the backing of the party machine. These are competing with the reputed Presidential candidates, as are Republican opponents of the nominee. Thus it may be seen, according to quite fluent gossip among Alabama Republicans here and in Alabama, that the State which in national conventions is always first—being at the beginning of the alphabet—for candidates for the Presidential nomination, is first in the game of Presidential politics of the campaign of 1908.

The Republican opponents of Mr. Hundley are confident that they will prevent the confirmation of his nomination. On the other hand, Mr. Hundley and his friends are equally confident that after a brief delay following the reassembling of Congress he will be confirmed.

Mr. Hundley was nominated to succeed Thomas R. Roulhac, a Democrat, who was appointed by President Roosevelt, and whose term expired on December 31. Among those classed as opposed to Hundley's confirmation is Judge Thomas G. Jones, judge of the district for which Hundley is named to be attorney.

## Was Author of Bill.

Among the reports of matters to be brought to the attention of the Senate Judiciary Committee is that Hundley is one that he was the author of a State senator, of a measure which restricted the use of money derived from taxation of the property of white people to the education of white children, and provided that money derived from the taxation of the property of negroes should be devoted to the education of negro children only. This would have deprived the negroes of practically all public school privileges. Judge Jones was governor when Hundley advocated the bill and sent a special message to the legislature asserting that it was unconstitutional.

Another important Federal office which is engaging the attention of the Alabama "fuglemen" is the postmastership at Selma, the home town of both Senators Morgan and Pettus. It is one of the best postmasterships in the State, and as the incumbent is a favorite of both the venerable Senators, they are no little concerned over the possibility of the enemy, The Selma post-office has long been a cause of soreness to Alabama Republicans. They have not had the postmastership for their own since the administration of President Harrison.

## Democrats Control Office.

When President Cleveland had the appointment, Senator Morgan obtained from the personal friend of the Senator the place Mrs. Mary B. Force, naming for the widow of the surgeon attached to the Confederate brigade which the Senator commanded. Mrs. Force's husband, Dr. Peter B. Force, was a son of Peter B. Force, the antiquarian and bibliophile of Washington, and was born in this city. He married in the South and joined the Confederate army. He had a brother who was a gallant officer in the Union army. Gen. Manning C. Force, Gen. Force first served in an Ohio regiment and he and President McKinley, who was a major under him, were friends as well as comrades in arms. When Gen. Force called upon President McKinley shortly after his election, the President asked the general to name something he could do for him. Gen. Force replied:

"Major, there is nothing except that I want you to take care of my brother's widow."

That meant the reappointment of Mrs. Force as postmaster at Selma, and of course it was made, despite the eager efforts of Alabama Republicans to get the place. She was again reappointed by President Roosevelt, and her fourth term has expired. The "fuglemen" have gone after the office every time, and are after it again, with more persistence than ever, contending it is about time that an appointment that was originally Democratic should go to a Republican.

Senators Morgan and Pettus are having their quarrelsome quarrel over the situation, but both are standing by the widow of their friend and army comrade.

Mrs. Force has a daughter in Washington, Miss Margaret C. Force, who is an assistant in the reading room of the Library of Congress.

## Herald Want Ads

will be received at McNulty's Cigar Store, Fourteenth and P streets, and promptly forwarded to the main office.

## CATHOLICS PLAN PROTEST.

## Ready for Mass Meeting in Columbia Theater to-morrow Evening.

## Final Arrangements for the mass meeting to be held to-morrow night to protest against the action of the French government in confiscating the property of the Catholic Church were made in Carroll Hall last night. The meeting will be held at the Columbia Theater. It will be called to order at 8:35 by P. J. Haltigan, one of the most zealous promoters of the movement and the editor of the National Hibernian. The following speakers have signified their intention of addressing the meeting: Rev. Dennis J. Stafford, Rabbi Abraham Simon, Rev. John Van Schaick, Hon. Edgar H. Gans, of Baltimore; V. T. McCrystal, of New York, and President Neuharth, of George Washington University.

## The committee in charge of the meeting have received numerous letters from priests all over the country indorsing the spirit of the Catholics of this city in condemning what they consider the unwarranted oppression of the church in France. Disparaging the Catholic organization in the city has signified its intention of attending the meeting in a body. A full orchestra, under the direction of Prof. Eugene M. McCarthy, will render selections during the evening.

## JOHN REED COMMITS SUICIDE

## Sixth Street Tobacconist Ends Life Because of Ill Health.

## Wife Finds Husband on Bed Bleeding from Wounds—Revolver in His Hand.

While despondent, John J. Reed, a tobacconist, who lived at 611 Sixth street northwest, committed suicide yesterday afternoon by shooting himself with a revolver while in his room at home. He was immediately taken to the Emergency Hospital, where he lingered for several hours, dying shortly after 8 o'clock.

Reed had been suffering from stomach trouble for some time, and for the last few days had been quite ill. Yesterday morning he went to his store, where he remained a short while, and then, complaining of weakness, went home. There he refused any assistance and went to his room on the second floor. Several hours later his wife, Mrs. Julia Reed, who had just opened a belated Christmas box, went to his room intending to show him some of the presents she had received. On entering she found the prostrate body of her husband on his bed, bleeding profusely from a wound in his left temple and another in his breast. In his hand he still held a revolver.

A neighbor was called and Reed was taken to the hospital in an ambulance, where all possible medical assistance was rendered.

Mr. Reed, who was fifty-eight years old, was born in Virginia, but had been a resident of this city for over thirty years. He was a member of the local Washington Subchapter of the B. F. Fraternity. He is survived by his wife, two sons, and two daughters.

## HONORED BY HIS FRIENDS.

## Banquet Given James B. Lackey by Washington Electric Officials.

James B. Lackey was the guest of honor last night at a banquet given by the officials of the Washington Railway and Electric Company at the New Willard. Mr. Lackey was presented with a beautiful piece of bronze, the figure representing Labor. It was executed by a French sculptor, and was exhibited in the Salon at Paris last year.

Mr. Lackey recently resigned his position as secretary of the company to accept a place as the executive head of the Street Railway Advertising Company, of New York, of which Barron S. Collier is president. He will assume his duties there with the new year.

Those present at the banquet were: George H. Harris, Col. George Thacker, S. W. Fanning, J. J. Harrington, W. F. Ham, Dr. C. G. Stewart, C. S. Kimball, E. S. Marlow, Ralph W. Lee, L. E. Sinclair, F. J. Whitehead, and Gordon Campbell, all connected with the company in an official capacity.

## SMITH'S BODY TAKEN AWAY.

## Remains of Veteran Go to Pennsylvania for Burial.

Funeral services over the body of Walter B. Smith, who died from the effects of a fall on Thursday, were held at his late residence, 1710 Wisconsin avenue, last night, and the body was shipped to Allentown, Pa., for interment.

Mr. Smith was seventy-five years old and had been an invalid for some time. While going from one room to another Tuesday he fell in such a way that his neck was broken. He was a native of Pennsylvania and served as comptroller of the currency in that State for a number of years. He moved to this city four years ago. He was a member of E. B. Young Post, G. A. R., having served in the signal corps of the Forty-seventh Infantry. He is survived by a daughter, Mrs. Mary E. Mertz, and a son, Walter Smith.

## GETS NO FEATHER DUSTERS.

## Register at Olympia Is Turned Down by Uncle Sam.

A requisition for four turkey feather dusters, received from the land register at Olympia, Wash., was yesterday acted upon adversely by the commissioner of the General Land Office.

In a thousand-word letter the register told the land office of how a set of dusters in his office had recently been put out of commission. It appears that a careless messenger left them on the register's desk one day, and in cleaning up spilled a quart of water over the regular set.

## Inspects Distilleries.

Secretary Wilson, of the Department of Agriculture, and Solicitor George F. McCabe left yesterday for Baltimore to visit distilleries there. The Secretary's object in personally inspecting the distilleries is to ascertain just how various brands of whiskey are made, so that he may decide how they should be labeled under the pure-food law, which goes into effect next Tuesday.

## FOR NEW YEAR'S RECEPTIONS AND FAMILY FEASTS.

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## WEANS SOUTH AWAY

## "Hanna Crowd" Undermining Roosevelt's Influence.

## BODES ILL FOR CANDIDATES

## Leaders Who Learned Politics Under McKinley's Friend, After Waging Guerrilla Warfare Against the President, Have Come Out Into Open and Claim Control of Organizations.

Evidence accumulates that President Roosevelt has lost control of the organizations of his party in the Southern States, and some others, and that the "old crowd" of Republicans, who learned politics at the feet of Marcus Aurelius Hanna, are once more in power there. This, the wise ones say, bodes ill for any candidate for the Republican nomination in 1908 who bears the Roosevelt label, and indicates that a "conservative" will secure the coveted prize.

The recent tactics of the old-crowd leaders bear out this idea. After waging a guerrilla warfare against the President and his policies and supporters for months, they have come out into the open and are fighting him as vigorously as if he were a member of the other party. The little politicians in various parts of the country have not failed to notice this, and with some of the big ones, they have started to move on Washington to see what it all means.

Many of those who, under the Hanna regime, were mere political mercenaries, have good reason to dislike the President. He has made some of them give up public office and return to the ranks. Others who were hand in glove with corporations have been impelled by his methods to turn against their old friends in order to keep up a semblance of harmony with the President. Downcast by such developments, these soldiers of political fortune have been waiting impatiently for the time when, in their opinion, it would be safe and profitable to desert to the element of the party which has all along been covertly opposed to the President.

## Little Encouragement.

Heretofore they have received little encouragement for the insurgent leadership like Adair, Foraker, Scott, Elkins, Keen, Harrison, Cox, of Ohio, and Rythe, of Iowa, have preferred to make no open and continued demonstration against the President. Instead, they have been striking here and there—opposing the Rooseveltian rate-bill programme at one time, attacking Federal meat-inspection at another, and harassing the President on such things as his Japanese policy at still another—yet all the while saying in their public utterances that the President was everything that he should be.

When Congress met the President was distinctly a victor, for the Congressional elections had been contested in his name in numerous districts and won. Before the session had fairly commenced, however, the Brownsville affair began to assume proportion, and the President's standing in importance ever since. Only in the South, the Democratic stronghold, is the discharge of the negro troops generally indorsed, and there the indorsers are public. Elsewhere public sentiment seems to be distinctly against the President. The situation is such that the would-be insurgents are coming around to the opinion that they will now lose nothing by deserting to the President, and perhaps, gain much, and they are acting accordingly. They have been assured that the struggle for control of the Republican organization in 1908 has begun, and that they are not only willing, but extremely anxious to get into the side which has the best chance to win, and to get in at the earliest possible moment.

## Visit for Information.

Ex-Boss Cox, of Cincinnati, the man whom Secretary Taft helped to smash two years ago, is one of those who have been to Washington recently to talk things over with the "conservative" leaders, and who have gone back home satisfied that now is the time to subscribe. They have been told, they are saying, that the President is not a candidate, and that his present intention is to attempt to make Secretary Taft the nominee; that Foraker, aided by Cox and Dick, have so tight a grip on Ohio that Taft will be unable to secure indorsement there, his home State; that the old insurgent, assisted by such big financiers as Harriman and Morgan, will capture New York shortly; that Fairbanks has Indiana in the hollow of his hand; that Illinois belongs to Uncle Joe Cannon, and that the Republican organizations of all the Southern States are ready to back the old crowd that held them in the days before Theodore Roosevelt became a factor to be reckoned with.

Authorities agree that nothing like an argument as to the identity of the candidate to be supported by the conservatives has yet been reached. But they add, there is plenty of time for that. At present the important point is to strengthen the grip on the State machines, so that when the time comes to crush the Roosevelt effort the trick may be turned neatly and expeditiously.

The capture of the South is regarded by the conservatives as their most brilliant achievement. So far, the insurgents are proud of their work in Alabama, which the administration obviously thinks is still safely pro-Roosevelt. Twenty members of the committee which holds the throttle of the Republican engine in that Southern State are Federal officeholders—postmasters mostly. Postmaster General Cortelyou, some time ago, issued an order that postmasters must sever their connections with organizations, but shortly thereafter First Assistant Postmaster General Hitchcock sent out a little chaser to the effect that postmasters could be members of political committees, provided the Secretary of the committee did not interfere with their official duties.

## Resignations Recalled.

The twenty-five postmasters who were members of the committee which controlled the sending of delegates to the Chicago convention in 1904 withdrew their resignations which they had filed. Then it was that the old Hanna crowd in Alabama organized an insurgent combination. Last fall the Rooseveltites feared to risk a State convention, and not only did not call one, but failed to take other means of getting a ticket in the field. The Hanna Republicans promptly took advantage of this lapse by nominating a ticket at a mass convention. The election authorities of the State upheld them, and the delegates went on the regular ballot under the Republican emblem. If there is a split in 1908, and two Republican conventions to select delegates to the national convention are held, the insurgents will have legal authority or the highest sort for demanding that their delegates be recognized as regular. And these delegates, incidentally, will not be for Secretary Taft, or anybody else who has the approval of the President.

Mississippi contains an anti-Roosevelt Republican organization, which is said to be strong. The big boss in Tennessee now seems to be H. Clay Evans, who does not like Mr. Roosevelt, and who has Mr. Evans was consul general at London Mr.

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## DIED.

APPLE—On Thursday, December 27, 1906, at Garfield Hospital, HUGH A. APPLE, son of the late Andrew G. Apple.